

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending.

The applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's allowance of claims 15-18, and finding of allowable subject matter in claims 4-7, 9, 10 and 12. Claims 4 and 5 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 8, 11 and 14 have been amended to depend from either claim 4 or claim 5. Claim 19 has been amended to depend from claim 16. Therefore, claims 4-12 and 14-19 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 24 recites a method for operating a power converter that includes a single stage input buck-boost converter and a switching output stage, comprising: operating the single stage input buck-boost converter to draw a sinusoidal current in phase with an input voltage and to provide a regulated DC bus output; and operating the switching output stage to provide a constant power to a load. Allowance of claim 24 is requested as well.

Claims 1-3, 11, 13 and 23 were rejected as anticipated by Albrecht et al. Claims 8, 14 and 19-22 were rejected as unpatentable over Albrecht et al. in view of the acknowledged prior art (APA).

A problem with known electronic ballasts (see paragraph 9) is that up to now, a number of components and integrated circuits have been required to control the electronic ballast and provide proper operation. For example, multiple respective IC's have been required to drive the full bridge output circuit, control the PFC circuit, provide feedback and provide overall control of the system. A goal of the present invention, therefore, not realized until now, is to simplify construction and reduce component count in an electronic ballast.

The present inventors have accomplished a solution to this problem, as noted in paragraph 10 and throughout the application; namely the provision of a single integrated circuit to provide all the control signals in an electronic ballast for an HID lamp.

In rejecting claims 8, 14, and 19-22, the Examiner referred to the Background of the Invention for the proposition that the feature of "an integrated circuit" is well known. The applicants must disagree, since as explained above and in the Background of the Invention, integration of electronic ballast circuits has not been accomplished prior to the present invention.

Accordingly, reconsideration of claims 20-22 is requested. Albrecht et al. and the

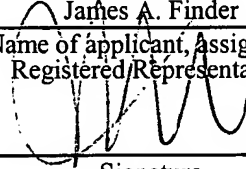
APA do not disclose or suggest an integrated circuit having the claimed features.

Further, claim 1 is being amended to recite "an integrated circuit controller coupled to the buck-boost converter and the output stage for controlling the buck-boost converter and the output stage." For the reasons already stated, allowance of claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 3, 13 and 23 is requested as well.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of claims 1-24 is respectfully requested.

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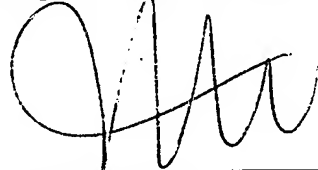
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Name of applicant, Assignee or
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Signature
June 24, 2005

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWING(S)

Fig. 5 has been amended as required. The attached sheets of formal drawings replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-5.